DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-OP-S FUBLIC NOTICE NO. MS00-001247-G 26 May 2000

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED WETLAND FILL FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT FLAT BRANCH, GULFPORT, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO ALL CONCERNED: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Corps can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Mr. Louis Breland

c/o D.R. Sanders and Associates

4017 Lake Wilma Road

Moss Point, Mississippi 39562

LOCATION: Flat Branch watershed on U.S. Highway 49, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. See Gulfport North 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

WORK: Mr. Breland proposes to fill 7.8 acres of forested riverine wetland to construct an office building, storage facility, and associated parking. Mitigation would include the enhancement or restoration and preservation of 15.6 acres of forested wetland at the Little Biloxi Wetland Trust's Black Creek Bioreserve in Jackson County. Drawings furnished by applicant.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposal on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors and their cumulative effects relevant to the proposal will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, property ownership, and the general needs and welfare of the people.

To evaluate the impacts of this proposal the Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. Comments will be considered to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit. To make this decision, an Environmental Assessment is prepared in accord with the National Environmental Policy Act; impacts are assessed on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this proposal. Requests should provide in writing, within the specified comment period, detailed reasons for a hearing.

This notice is being sent to appropriate State and Federal agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services. No properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist which would be affected by the proposal. Comments are requested regarding the potential or existence of cultural resources which may be affected. The U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicates that the proposal will not affect listed species, or their critical habitat. Other impacts from dredge and fill activities will be evaluated by applying Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Preliminary consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service indicates that impacts to Essential Fish Habitat of estuarine species would not be significant. After review of public comments, the Mississippi Office of Pollution Control and the Department of Marine Resources will determine if the proposal complies with and will be operated or maintained in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Program.

For additional information, please contact Larry Godwin, Project Manager, telephone number (334) 690-3262. Comments should be received by 26 June 2000. Please refer to number MS00-01247-G and direct your correspondence to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Regulatory Branch; a copy to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39209; and a copy to Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Suite 101, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

Enclosures

MOBILE DISTRICT
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

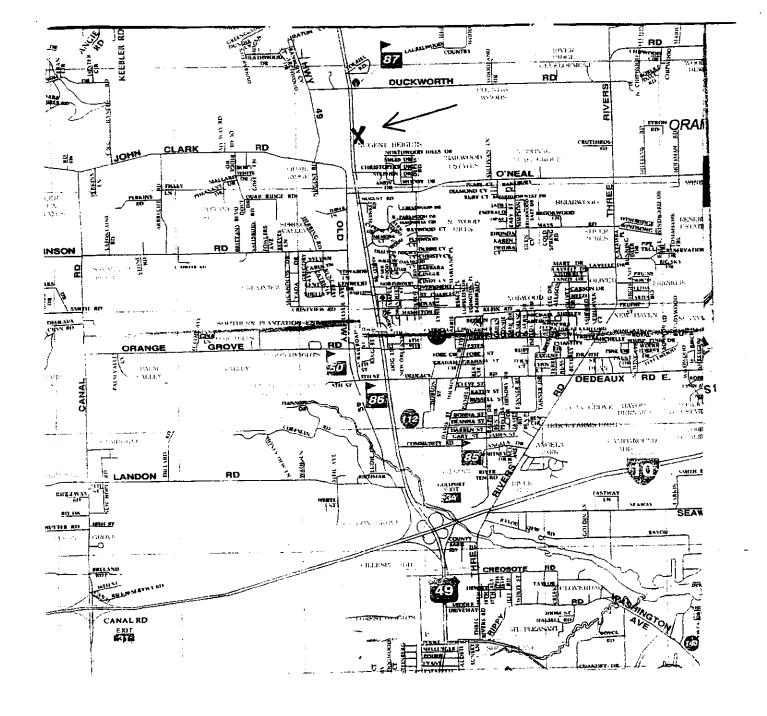
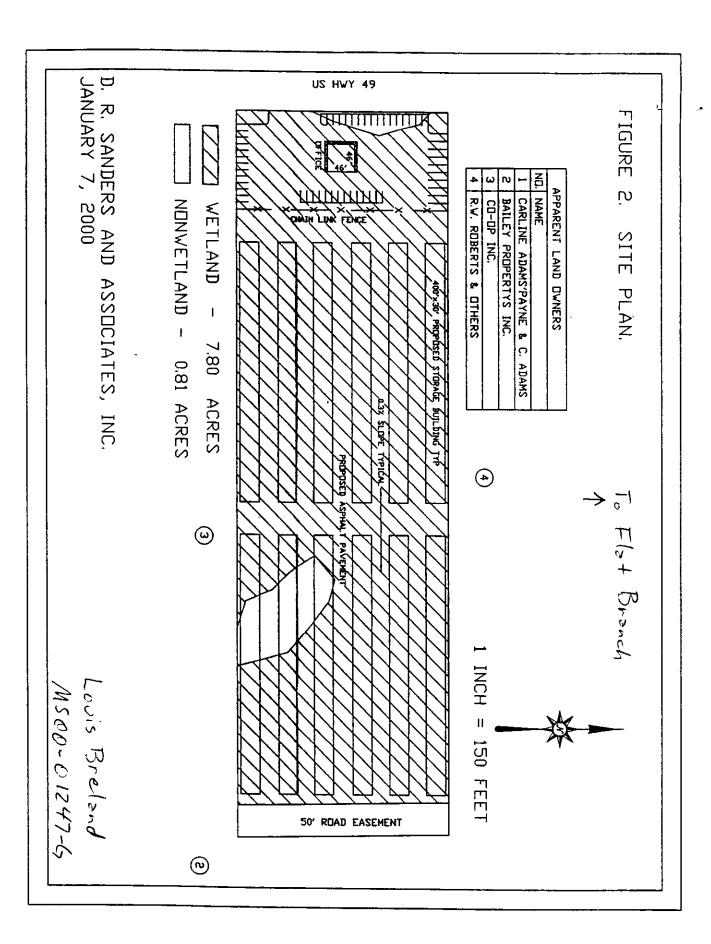


FIGURE 1: Vicinity map of U.S. Highway 49 ministorage facility.



U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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